



Nov. 28, 2006

www.nasa.gov

Vol. 11, No. 85

NASA to review STS-116 mission on NASA TV Wednesday

Solid rocket motor test gives data for Ares I launch vehicle

◆ **Shuttle Update:** With Space Shuttle Discovery poised on the launch pad for the next assembly mission to the International Space Station, NASA managers plan to hold a news conference at approximately 3 p.m. Wednesday to discuss the status of the upcoming mission. The news conference will be at KSC and begin after the conclusion of the traditional flight readiness review.

The news conference follows a two-day assessment of preparations for Discovery's mission, designated STS-116. The Nov. 28-29 meeting may produce a number of key decisions about the assembly flight, including selection of an official launch date, currently scheduled no earlier than Dec. 7.

Briefing participants are Bill Gerstenmaier, associate administrator for Space Operations; Wayne Hale, Space Shuttle Program manager; and Mike Leinbach, NASA launch director. The start of the news conference will depend on the ending time of the review. It will air live on NASA TV.

◆ **Constellation Program Update:** NASA's Space Shuttle Program successfully fired a reusable solid rocket motor on Nov. 16 at a Utah facility. The two-minute test provided important information for both nighttime shuttle launches and for the development of the rocket that will carry the next human spacecraft to the moon. The test provided data for development of the first stage re-

usable solid rocket motor for NASA's Ares I, the launch vehicle that will carry the Orion crew module to space. Engineers with NASA's Exploration Launch Projects Office at Marshall Space Flight Center, which manages the Ares launch vehicles, will analyze motor-induced, roll-torque measurements. The information – how the motor affects the rotation and twisting of a system – is needed for the Ares I control system design.

Preliminary indications are that all test objectives were met. After final test data are analyzed, results for each objective will be published by NASA in a report that will be available early next year.

For more information about the Ares I launch system, visit <http://www.nasa.gov/ares>.

■ **Nominations Requested for Second-Annual NASA Environment and Energy Blue Marble Awards** — The NASA Environment and Energy Awards Program recognizes NASA civil service and contractor personnel who demonstrate environmental leadership while carrying out our primary mission. Both NASA civil service and contractor personnel are eligible; however, contractors must be part of a NASA group. The award covers accomplishments for fiscal year 2006. Selection criteria, which should be addressed in the nominations, are impact to mission, scope of impact,

scalability/extensibility, ingenuity/creativity/leadership, and teamwork/collaboration. The nomination form and instructions are available at <http://nets.grc.nasa.gov/bluemarble.htm>. Please submit final, complete nominations to Maggie Forbes, TA-C3, no later than Dec. 15.

■ **NASA Project Management (PM) Challenge 2007** — Registration is now open online at <http://pmchallenge.gsfc.nasa.gov/registration2007.htm> for NASA's Fourth PM Challenge conference to be held Feb. 6-7 in Galveston, Texas. The conference theme is "Knowledge Sharing." Speaker abstracts and biographies are now posted at <http://pmchallenge.gsfc.nasa.gov/program.htm#Programsummary>. Questions regarding the conference can be directed to Niloo Naderi at Niloofar.Naderi.1@gsfc.nasa.gov.

■ **Education Opportunity** — The University of Miami is accepting applications for the Master of Science in Industrial Engineering degree in Cape Canaveral. Applicants can start the program in the January/February timeframe. For more information and to receive an application/brochure, please call Augusto Roca, program administrator, at 305-284-4100 or send e-mail to augusto@miami.edu.

■ **Did You Know?** On Nov. 29, 1929, Richard E. Byrd and Brent Balchen piloted the first flight over the South Pole.